

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, with regard to the Information Disclosure Statement, please note that copies of references "AK" and "AL" are provided herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make editorial changes thereto and generally improve the form thereof, and a substitute specification and abstract are provided. No new matter has been added by the substitute specification and abstract.

By the current Amendment, claims 1-11 have been canceled and new claims 12-31 have been added. New claims 12-31 have been drafted taking into account the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issues raised by the Examiner, are believed to be free of these issues, and are otherwise believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the Office Action mailed May 17, 2006: claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 (and presumably claim 7) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatani et al. in view of Rumbach; claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatani et al. in view of Rumbach and further in view of Schmechel; and, claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Similarly, claims 8-11 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of claim 7 and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The indication of allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated; however, the allowable dependent claims have not been rewritten in independent form, and, for reasons to follow, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 12 and 22 are allowable over the relied-upon references.

New independent claim 12 generally corresponds to a combination of former claims 1 and 2, with an additional limitation that

a position of said coin feeding member relative to said coin passage is adjustable in longitudinal and lateral directions of said coin passage in accordance with the diameter of the coins.

With reference to Figures 2, 5 and 7a - 8b, and page 14, line 9 through page 15, line 20, and page 18, line 11 through page 19, line 17, of the original specification, for example, coin feeding member 4 is adjustable relative to coin passage 1 in a longitudinal direction of the coin passage (compare dimension A1 in Figures 7a and 8a) and a lateral direction of the coin passage (compare positioning of belt 24 in Figures 7b and 8b), based upon a diameter of the coins (C', C'') to be stacked. This adjustable feature was broadly recited in original claim 2.

In rejecting claim 2, the Examiner relied upon a combination of Takatani et al. and Schmechel. Specifically, the Examiner recognized that Takatani et al. does not disclose a coin feeding member that is adjustable relative to a coin passage in accordance with a diameter of coins to be stacked, and thus relied upon Schmechel for a teaching of such an adjustable coin feeding member.

It is not disputed that bearing 62 (coin feeding member) of Schmechel is adjustable relative to feeding track 9; however, as shown in Figures 8 and 10, the bearing 62 is movable toward and away from the feeding track 9 by pivoting rocker 12 about an axis that is parallel to a lateral direction of the feeding track. Accordingly, the bearing 62 is not adjustable in both a longitudinal direction and **lateral direction**, as required by claim 12. This deficiency is not resolved by Rumbach nor Takatani et al., whereby claim 12 is allowable over these references either taken alone or in combination, such that claims 12 - 21 are allowable.

New independent claim 22 basically corresponds to former claim 7. In rejecting claim 3 (and presumably claim 7), the Examiner took the position that the stabilizing roller 53 of Takatani et al. corresponds to the claimed coin presser mechanism. However, former claim 7, and new claim 22, require that the coin presser mechanism is for ***always downwardly pressing an upper surface of an uppermost one of the coins when stacked in the stacking section.*** To

the contrary, the stabilizing roller 53 of Takatani et al. pivots away from the coins after only a few coins are stacked, and then remaining coins are stacked (please see column 8, lines 34 - 47, and column 15, lines 41 - 55).

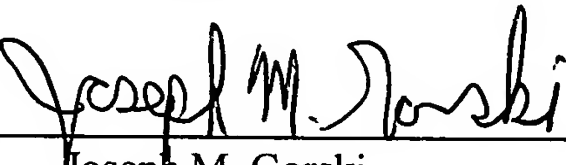
Accordingly, because the stabilizing roller 53 is not for always pressing an uppermost one of stacked coins, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed coin presser mechanism does not read on roller 53. Neither Rumbach nor Schmechel resolve this deficiency of Takatani et al., and accordingly, claim 22 is allowable over these references either taken alone or in combination, whereby claims 22 - 31 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuma SUGAHARA et al.

By: 
Joseph M. Gorski
Registration No. 46,500
Attorney for Applicants

JMG/nka
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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